

Reflections

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2,3 OpUnity. Foundations.

II. Slide4 **Intro:** Reflections

- A. Have we not learned many lessons from our Nations history? The old adage is still true, “*Those who do not learn history **are doomed to repeat it.***” George Santayana
- B. Psalm 78 is **Historical Psalm** (like Ps.105,106) teaching the history of God's people, but especially how **God** was always **faithful** to Israel. [2nd longest Psalm]
- C. Asaph - worship leader for David and Solomon.
 - 1. Asaph was a prophet in his musical compositions. (1 Chron.25:1 & 2 Chron.29:30)
- D. This is Israel's journey with God ... How is your journey w/God?

III. Slide5 **LISTEN AND SHARE (1-4)** READ

- A. This genre is a Wisdom Psalm. It is designed to prompt people to look at their relationship with God.
 - 1. But before you speak wisdom, you must gain their attention 1st. LISTEN UP!
- B. There's 2 things that he says to communicate: **1st** what **God** has done and what is recorded in His Word, but also share what **God** has done in your life.
 - 1. Cam shared this with the men last night (Grill n Chill).
The encouragement to pass these truths on to our children.
To pass it down as his youth leader did to him (& continues still today).
 - 2. What do I pass on? 3 things: His glorious deeds, His might, His wonders.
- C. Watch the hand of God as he moves in history and through history. Yes the larger events but also the day-to-day happenings in our lives.
 - 1. Listen for both the failings of God's people, but also how it exalts the strength and power of **God**.

IV. Slide6 WORD AND WORKS (5-8) READ

- A. Asaph calls his people to *hear lessons from the past*, so they will learn to obey God and find hope in Him.
- B. Slide7 Set your hope in God - each generation should *set its hope anew on God*.
1. Like a sailboat setting its sail, *set your heart in the right direction*.
 - a) There's a 1916 poem by Ella Wheeler Wilcox that contains the lines: *One ship sails East, And another West, By the self-same winds that blow, 'Tis the set of the sails. And not the gales, That tells the way we go.* The idea that it's not the direction of the wind, but the set of our sails that determines our destination.
 2. Don't set your hope on your past. Don't set your hope on our next elections. Don't even set your hope on your relationship w/Jesus last year. Nope, set it new on God today. (it's a choice everyday forward isn't it?)
- C. Saints, you have been *entrusted with your Christian heritage* to share it with the next gen. All of God's Words and Works, all the valuable lessons He's shown you personally.

V. Slide8 EPHRAIMITES UNFAITHFULNESS (9-11) READ example of "unfaithful"

- A. (9) Though He singles out the *Ephraimites* (rep the Northern kingdom of Israel) it really becomes an overview of *Israel's pattern of all their unfaithfulness* over the years.
- B. This is about *failure* in your warfare. Now, spiritually can you relate?
1. Jesus tells us not to *look back* otherwise we cannot *plow ahead*. And if you *look back* you cannot fight what is *in front of you*.
- C. Don't miss this, they were *well armed* but turned back. *We are well armed with the Holy Spirit in our lives yet often we turn back.*
- D. So what was their undoing? (see 10,11)

VI. Slide9 GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN EGYPT (12-16) READ

A. **Contrast:** *Unfaithfulness* is common people, **but** not so with God, *faithfulness* is part of His character.

VII.Slide10,11 **THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS IN THE WILDERNESS (17-53)**

A. **FAITHLESS (17-20) READ**

B. **Slide12 Can God spread a table in the wilderness?** - oh be careful friends. This was such a slur on the gracious providence of God. Did God begin something He could not complete? Has God done so much **but** cannot do all? *F.B.Meyer*

1. Yet for you and I, *even after the cross, the resurrection, and the ascension* don't we still ask, **Can God?** Is He **Almighty** ... *sort of?* Is there a limit to His Almightyness?

a) *"His love in time past forbids me to think, He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink."* *F.B.Meyer*

C. Oh, **He'll** show them He can spread a pretty good table for them in the wilderness.

D. **Slide13 GOD'S PROVISION OF MANNA (21-25) READ**

E. When I read this I ask myself, **Brian**, do you always want God to answer all your prayers?

F. **Slide14 GOD'S PUNISHMENT W/PLAGUE (26-31) READ**

G. You have to admit He does have a way about getting our attention!

H. **Slide15 YO-YO RELATIONSHIP (32-37) READ**

I. **Slide16 Flattery gets you nowhere.** It is not communication, it's *manipulation*. We flatter people when *we want something from them*. **But** it's bad enough to **flatter people**, **but** it's even worse to **flatter God**.

J. Well that sounds like our walk with God sometimes.

1. God having to continually step in and remind us of Himself, **then** we're encouraged for a few days, **then** we forget (ad infinitum).

K. **Slide17 GOD'S COMPASSION / STILL NO CHANGE (38-41) READ**

L. This time is marked by God's compassion, **but** Israel never changed.

M. Slide 18 ISRAEL FAILS TO REMEMBER (42-53) *READ*

N. Israel *failed to remember* God's powerful hand.

1. The people of Israel often *remembered what they should've forgotten and forgot but they should've remembered.*

VIII. Slide 19, 20 THEIR UNFAITHFULNESS IN THE PROMISED LAND (54-72)

A. SETTLING IN THE PROMISED LAND (54-55) *READ*

B. This little section is Israel's **entry into** and **settlement of** the promised land.

C. Slide 21 GOD'S COMPASSION / STILL NO CHANGE (56-64) *READ*

D. (60) *Shiloh* - this was Israel's *spiritual center* for 369 years.

E. Slide 22 GOD'S RESCUE OF ISRAEL (65-72) *READ*

F. (65, 66) This recounts God's eventual rescue of Israel.

G. (67-69) God rejected Ephraim *and* selected *Judah* to house His temple.

H. (70-72) God's answer to Israel's needs, was to give them a spiritual leader, *David, the shepherd.*

1. David began as a servant, & God made him a ruler. *That's always God's pattern.*
2. Slide 23 David had 3 things: *humility* (just a boy shepherd serving the ewe's that had young). *Integrity* (upright heart). *And ability* (skillful hands). He sought to serve the Lord *and* loved the flock of Israel.
3. *Yes, do your best* (skillfulness of hand) *but* most important *be your best* (integrity of heart).

I. Keywords: Hope